

To whom can I write to express comments or concerns about the Military Funeral Honors Program?

You may write to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for a DoD response, or write to the appropriate service if you would prefer to address your comments to a specific service.

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20380-4000

Army

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
The Adjutant General of the
U.S. Army
Casualty and Mortuary Affairs
Operations Center
AHRC-PDC-P
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5405

Marine Corps

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
Attn: MFPC (Funeral Honors)
2008 Elliot Road
Quantico, VA 22134

Navy

Commander Navy Installations Command
Casualty and Funeral Honors (Nook)
716 Sicard Street, SE, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20374-5140

Air Force

Air Force Military Funeral Honors
116 Purple Heart Drive
Dover AFB, DE 19902

Coast Guard

Commander (PSD FS Casualty Matters)
USCG Personnel Service Center
4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1100
STOP 7200
Arlington VA 20598-7200

Note: Funeral directors may also call the DoD Military Funeral Honors Program 24/7 at 877-645-4667. Please use pass code 33634.

Information on military funeral honors and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the Department of Defense Military Funeral Honors website at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>.

The website contains up-to-date information and direct links to other related websites.

For any issues or concerns, please contact the DoD Military Funeral Honors program manager at 571-372-0870.



Providing policy, tools and resources to further enhance the quality of life of service members and their families.



MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Frequently Asked Questions





What is the Military Funeral Honors Program?

The Military Funeral Honors Program establishes procedures for requesting and rendering military funeral honors. By law, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the armed forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the veteran's service branch.

The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the playing of Taps and the folding and presentation of the American flag to the next of kin. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by a ceremonial bugle or electronic recording (CD or tape).

The Department of Defense funeral honors detail may be augmented by a veteran service organization to provide additional elements, such as a rifle detail or pallbearers.

How does the family request military funeral honors?

Families of eligible veterans should request military funeral honors through their funeral director. The funeral director will contact the appropriate military service to arrange for the funeral honors detail. Families in possession of their veteran loved ones' cremains, who now desire to have a burial ceremony, may contact the service casualty office of the veteran. Those contacts are listed on the Military Funeral Honors website at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>. The service will request the family provide a copy of the service member's DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty, or other supporting discharge information in order to verify eligibility.

How can the family obtain a copy of military records and DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty, to establish eligibility?

Following are two preferred ways:

1. Contact your regional Department of Veterans Affairs office at 800-827-1000.
2. Submit a request following the guidance on the Veterans Service Records website at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

Note: The VA accepts family requests only from the next of kin. Next of kin for this purpose is identified as a surviving spouse who has not remarried, a father, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother. However, when a loss occurs without notice, please contact the veteran's service casualty office for assistance in expediting a request for military records. The service casualty office is responsible for determining eligibility for the Military Funeral Honors Program.

Is there a cost for military funeral honors?

The funeral honors detail provided by the Department of Defense is provided at no cost to the family.

How much notice should be provided for the funeral honors request?

The services request at least 48 hours in order to organize the military funeral honors detail and to arrange for transportation, if required.

How many funeral honors ceremonies can a veteran receive?

A veteran is entitled to one funeral honors ceremony to be provided at the time of the funeral.

May the family request a military funeral honors detail that has representation from both DoD and the local veteran service organization?

Yes, the DoD recognizes the valuable role that members of veteran service organizations play in honoring our veterans. Section 1491(b) of Title 10, U.S. Code, authorizes members of veteran service organizations, as well as other approved organizations, to participate with the military services in providing funeral honors. Veteran service organizations and the Authorized Provider Partnership Program, or AP³, are able to augment the legislated two-person uniformed member detail by providing additional detail elements for funeral honors.

Who is eligible for a burial flag?

The VA verifies eligibility for veterans in accordance with Section 2301 of Title 38, U.S. Code. Your funeral director will assist you in obtaining a flag. More information is available at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/bbene/bflags.asp>.

In the case of in-service deaths (active duty), the Department of Defense provides a U.S. flag to drape the casket or to be presented at a memorial service. After the service, the flag is given to the eligible recipients.